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The New Indian Express
Wishes its readers a
HAPPY
Ayudha Pooja

Our offices and press will remain closed today and there will be no issue of the paper on Wednesday

SWEDISH SCIENTIST SVANTE PAABO WINS MEDICINE NOBEL

The coveted award was for Paabo's discoveries on the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution

EVOLUTION RESEARCH PROVIDED KEY INSIGHTS

Paabo's discoveries on human evolution provided key insights into our immune system and what makes us unique. Through his pioneering research, he accomplished "something seemingly impossible: sequencing the genome of the Neanderthal, an extinct relative of present-day humans," a release from the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet read

HE CREATED A NEW SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE

- His research also spawned a new scientific discipline called paleogenomics. "By revealing genetic differences that distinguish all living humans from extinct hominins, his discoveries provide the basis for exploring what makes us uniquely human," it added
- Paabo's father Sune Bergstrom had won medicine Nobel in 1982

October 10

WHEN THE 2022 NOBEL PRIZE SEASON WILL END WITH ECONOMICS AWARD | PTI

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Minor boy put through nude worship ritual in Hubballi

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi

In a shocking incident, a 15-year old boy from Koppal was forcefully made to perform a banned religious practice called 'Bettalu Seve' (nude worship) in Hubballi in June 2022. The accused stripped the boy's clothes, shot a video of the ritual and uploaded it on social media after which his family members filed an FIR with the Koppal Rural Police Station on October 2.

Koppal Superintendent of Police (SP) Arunangshu Giri told *The New Indian Express*, "We have arrested all three accused in the case. Our initial probe reveals that the accused were trying to perform black magic which is banned as per law. The accused have been booked under Protection of Child Rights Act and some sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). It's an inhumane act. An inspector level special officer has been appointed to investigate the matter further."

However, according to a relative of the victim, the three accused performed the 'ritual' out of revenge against the boy's father who had taken a loan from them and a few others to construct a house and was not able to repay it on time.

The accused told the boy that if he performed nude worship, his family would be out of financial problems. Moved by the plight of his family's financial situation, the boy agreed to go with the accused to Hubballi and work for them at a pipeline laying work site in Timmasagara village.

The accused are Sharanappa Talawar (39), Virappanagowda Gowdra (41) and Sharanappa Ojanahalli (43).

Congress president Sonia Gandhi arrives in Mysuru on Monday | EXPRESS

Sonia arrives in Mysuru, to join yatra on Oct. 6

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

CONGRESS president Sonia Gandhi reached Mysuru on Monday to join the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra, being led by her son and party leader Rahul Gandhi.

Confirming her arrival, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D K Shivakumar said Sonia will stay with Rahul for two days at a resort in the Kabini backwaters. She will take part in the yatra on October 6.

Asked about Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's participation in the yatra, Shivakumar said it is not yet confirmed. Terming the yatra "a grand success in Karnataka", Shivakumar said veteran party leader and Congress presidential hopeful Mallikarjun Kharge will also take part in the yatra. P4

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh after a sortie in the newly inducted Light Combat Helicopter 'Prachand', at the IAF's Jodhpur airbase on Monday | PTI

Made-In-India Light Combat Helicopter joins Air Force fleet

MAYANK SINGH @ Jodhpur

THE Indian Air Force on Monday inducted its first unit of the indigenous Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) at the Jodhpur airbase in Rajasthan. Christened Prachand, the LCH at present contains about 45% indigenous content by value, which will progressively increase to over 55% in future versions.

An LCH unit comprises 10 made-in-India multirole attack helicopters.

The induction ceremony was presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of the Air Chief V R Chaudhari. Rajnath Singh said, "The LCH is capable of dodging the enemy, carrying a variety of ammunition, and delivering it to the site quickly."

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said since Jodhpur is housing the first unit of the indigenous LCH, its personnel "have been specially selected based on their professional competence".

The Cabinet Committee on Security in March this year approved the procurement of 15 LCH Limited Series Production at a cost of ₹3,887 crore along with infrastructure worth ₹377 crore. Of these, five LCHs are to be inducted into by the Army.

The helicopter is powered by a twin Shakti engine and has a range of 500 km and a maximum speed of 268 kmph. It is compatible for high-altitude deployment with the capability to take off and land about 5,000 metres. The weapons onboard include Air to Air Missile Mistral 2, Anti Tank Guided Missile Dhruvastra, and 70 MM Rockets.

Speaking on the occasion, HAL CMD (additional charge) C B Ananthakrishnan said the machine has been tested in various conditions, including high altitude and cold climate in Siachen. It has clocked 2,034 flights and 1,500 hours of flying so far.

In all, 95 helicopters are expected to be inducted into the IAF and around 65 in the Army. The IAF is yet to finalise the number of LCHs to be procured. These choppers may replace the ageing Russian Mi-25 and Mi-35 attack choppers.

Deployment by Army along LAC

In June this year, the Army inducted its first LCH squadron in Bengaluru. It will be moved to the Eastern Command for deployment along the Line of Actual Control next year, sources said

Iran flight hoax bomb call: IAF scrambles Sukhois

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A bomb scare aboard a Tehran to Guangzhou flight from Iran on Monday while it was in Indian airspace led to the scrambling of IAF fighter jets, but the alert turned out to be fake.

Private airliner Mahan Air's flight W581 had entered Indian airspace from Pakistan when the alert was triggered. The alert originated from Tehran. The call first went to the Karachi ATC, which rerouted it to the Delhi ATC.

Mahan Air said, "Our Airbus 340 passenger plane was travelling from Tehran to Guangzhou in China, and as the pilot learned about the possibility of an in-flight bomb, he informed authorities. The Mahan operation control centre discerned that the threat was fabricated and the flight continued its journey in full safety." The IAF scrambled a couple of Sukhois fighter jets from its airbases in Punjab and Jodhpur in Rajasthan and followed due protocol to escort the plane.

The flight path of W581 (above); and FlightRadar24 data (right) shows it flying in circles a couple of times above Rajasthan and once near Narnaul in Haryana before continuing its journey to Guangzhou

In its statement, the IAF said, "On 03 October 2022, intimation was received of a bomb scare on an airline bearing Iranian registration, when it was transiting through Indian airspace. IAF fighter aircraft were scrambled, which followed the aircraft at a safe distance."

While there was a buzz that the Mahan Air pilot sought to land in Delhi, the flight was first offered the option to land at Jaipur and then at Chandigarh. The pilot hovered over the Rajasthan airspace for a while but was unwilling to divert to either of the two airports, the Air Force added.

By then, Iran had determined that it was a hoax call and requested the Delhi ATC to disregard the bomb scare. The aircraft then continued on its journey towards its final destination in China.

Apparently seeking to link it with the domestic unrest in Iran, Mahan air said, "It seems that reports of a bomb onboard the plane during current international and domestic conditions were aimed at disrupting security and peace of mind."

The aircraft was under IAF radar surveillance till it left the Indian airspace.

CBI detains Russian who 'hacked' JEE Main exam software

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE CBI on Monday claimed it has blown the lid off a widespread racket that includes a Russian national who allegedly hacked into the computer systems of Joint Entrance Examination (Main) candidates last year to facilitate aspiring students to get admission to top NITs.

The investigative agency's sleuths questioned the Russian national, identified as Mikhail Shargin, after he arrived at IGI airport from Almaty in Kazakhstan. Shargin was detained by the Bureau of Immigration after it acted on a Look Out Circular issued against him some time ago.

CBI sources said Shargin appears to have tampered with iLEON—the platform on which the JEE (Main) exam was conducted—and helped others in hacking the computer systems of candiates. After accessing the computers remotely, they would solve the question papers while the students, who allegedly paid ₹12-15 lakh each for the 'service', would pretend to be writing the exam.

The CBI, which has been probing the case since September 2021, found that three directors of Affinity Education Pvt Ltd — Siddharth Krishna, Vishwambhar Mani Tripathi and Govind Varshney — in conspiracy with other associates and touts has been manipulating the JEE (Main) examination.

EXPRESS READ

Cops issue externment order against BJP leader

KALABURAGI: BJP leader Manikanth Rathod, an aspirant for Chittapur constituency in the 2023 elections, has been externed from Kalaburagi district for a year over various charges against him.

K'taka ranks 1st as 18 cr join Swachata campaign

BENGALURU: Karnataka bagged the first prize in the 'Swachata hi Seva' campaign by Jal Shakti Ministry for its cleanliness initiatives in 28,000 villages | P7

SBI report warns of freebies time bomb

MUMBAI: With many states competing to offer freebies, a report penned by the SBI has suggested an SC-led panel to cap such schemes at 1% of the GSDP | P13

Post-Covid, all eyes on grand finale of Dasara tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

ALL eyes are on the grand finale of the 10-day Dasara festivities, which is scheduled to be held in Mysuru on October 5. Lakhs of people from different parts of the country and even abroad are expected to witness the event which marks the victory of good over evil during the nine-day Navaratri festival which culminates on the last day of Vijayadashami. The festivities were restricted to the Jamboo Savari in Mysuru Palace during the last two years due to the pandemic.

The victory parade this year will involve a grand and colourful procession of caparisoned elephants, horses, tableaux and hundreds of cultural troupes from Mysuru rolling through a sea of people along the 5-km stretch to Bannimantap Grounds.

Meanwhile, the 57-year-old elephant, Abhimanyu, carrying the golden howdah on its back will be flanked by Lakshmi and Chaitra (kumki elephants) besides other jumbos. Of the 14 elephants which were brought from various camps in the forests to train them for the procession during the last one-and-a-half months, nine elephants have been picked for the procession by foresters. This year, 63-year-old Arjuna, who carried the howdah during the previous years, will be participating for the first time post-retirement as Nishane elephant in the procession. P6

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